
For Immediate Release

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FIFTY PROGRAMS COMPETE FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT “OSCAR” FROM HARVARD

WASHINGTON, DC—The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government—in cooperation with the Council for Excellence in Government—today announced the **Top 50 Government Innovations for 2006**.

The successful programs range from a U.S. Military Academy video game to a pollution prevention program in Hawaii . . . from an on-line job matching service in Texas to a vehicle-sharing program in Philadelphia . . . and from an economic development strategy for Native American tribes to a special reading program for juvenile offenders in Wisconsin. Exemplifying the most innovative, creative and results-oriented efforts in government today, these programs are making a real and significant difference in the lives of countless Americans.

These public-sector programs are now semifinalists for the Innovations in American Government Awards—considered the “Oscars” of government—and are eligible to win one of seven \$100,000 grants.

The selection committee chose the Top 50 programs, representing governments at the federal, tribal, state, county and city levels, for their: novelty and creativity, effectiveness at addressing significant issues and problems and ability to be replicated by other jurisdictions. The programs represent governments’ best efforts in the areas of education and training, criminal justice and public safety, economic and community development, housing, health and social services, management, transportation, public works and environment.

Of the Top 50 programs named today, 21 are state-run efforts, 13 are federal initiatives (including three from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) and one run by a tribal government. Seven county programs, seven city programs and two school districts are also among those chosen. There are five from or within Pennsylvania, and three programs from or within both Washington State and Wisconsin. Other states with multiple honors include: Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts and New York (all with two each).

Eighteen finalists, chosen from among the 50, will be announced on May 4 during Public Service Recognition Week. The National Selection Committee on Innovation in American Government will then select five winners in addition to two special awards: the Annie E. Casey Foundation Innovations Award for Children and Family Services, and the Fannie Mae Foundation Award for Innovation in Affordable Housing. These seven recipients of \$100,000 awards will be announced on July 10 at a ceremony in Washington, DC.

The Innovations in American Government Award—now in its 19th year—is a program of the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government. It is administered in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government.

Descriptions and contact information for all *Top 50 Government Innovations for 2006* is attached. This information is also available at www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu or www.excelgov.org

2006 TOP 50 PROGRAMS

The Innovations in American Government Awards



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

America's Army Game

United States Army

The *America's Army* game is a virtual online experiences that has revolutionized the way Americans learn about, and potentially prepare for, Army career opportunities.

Contact: Lori Mezoff

Phone: (301) 879-9030

Email: lori.mezoff@us.army.mil

Website: www.americasarmy.com

Command & Control Intelligence Coordination Center

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

The Command & Control Intelligence Coordination Center (CCICC) has become the premier focus within the San Diego Area of Operations for conducting 24/7 intelligence operations. The spatial decisions support system utilized by this center was established by fusing daily operational information with intelligence to provide actionable real-time intelligence, timely dissemination of essential information and critical solutions management.

Contact: Daniel Isenberg

Phone: (619) 216-4038

Email: daniel.isenberg@dhs.gov

Distributed Learning System - e-Learning

United States Army

Army e-Learning, a component of the Distributed Learning System (DLS), provides Web-based training courses to 1.4 million Soldiers and civilians worldwide. The online curriculum includes 2,600 courses in IT, foreign languages, business, leadership and professional development, and is available anytime, anywhere and at no cost.

Contact: Meggan Kring

Phone: (757) 369-2886

Email: meggan.kring@us.army.mil

Website: www.dls.army.mil

EMPLOYment, Education and Outreach (EMPLEO)

U.S. Department of Labor

EMPLEO helps Hispanic low-wage workers in Southern California understand and exercise their rights within the workplace, regardless of their citizenship status. EMPLEO is the product of a unique consortium of federal, state, interfaith, private and international organizations.

Contact: Priscilla Garcia
Phone: (626) 966-0478 Ext. 225
Email: Garcia.priscilla@dol.gov

Environmental Compliance Data Web Site

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The Environmental Compliance Data Web Site provides the public with access to extensive information about environmental compliance records of more than 800,000 regulated facilities.

Contact: Dave Ryan
Phone: (202) 564-7827
Email: ryan.dave@epa.gov
Website: www.epa.gov/echo/

eRulemaking Initiative

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

eRulemaking promotes e-democracy and opens the door to the Federal rulemaking process by placing hundreds of regulations and supporting documents that impact daily life at the American public's fingertips.

Contact: Suzanne Ackerman
Phone: (202) 564-7819
Email: ackerman.suzanne@epa.gov
Website: www.Regulations.gov

Explorer Schools

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

NASA's Explorer Schools Program establishes a three-year partnership with school teams of teachers and administrators in diverse, underserved communities nationwide to revitalize mathematics, science and technology education to inspire students.

Contact: Peggy Steffen
Phone: (202) 358-0516
Email: psteffen@nasa.gov
Website: <http://explorerschools.nasa.gov>

Grass Roots Conservation Program

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Grassroots Conservation Program works to conserve fish and wildlife habitats and threatened biological systems in the Blackfoot Watershed through cooperative, community-based partnerships.

Contact: Greg Neudecker
Phone: (406) 727-7400 x27
Email: Greg_Neudecker@fws.gov
Website: www.montanapartners.fws.gov/mt5d.htm

Health Information Technology

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture includes an electronic health record that organizes and presents all relevant patient data to directly support clinical decision-making, improve safety and efficiency while reducing costs and staff requirements.

Contact: Jonathan Perlin
Phone: (202) 273-5781
Email: Jonathan.Perlin@va.gov
Website: www.va.gov

High-Risk Program: Fighting Waste, Promoting Transformation

U. S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)

GAO's High-Risk Program biennial reports have brought much-needed attention to long-standing federal management problems to better serve the American people and saved billions of dollars.

Contact: Paul Anderson
Phone: (202) 512-4800
Email: andersonpl@gao.gov
Website: www.gao.gov

National Environmental Performance Track

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

National Environmental Performance Track recognizes facilities that go beyond what is required by law, works with communities and achieves results that protect the environment and public health.

Contact: Kristinn Vazquez
Phone: (202) 566-1171
Email: Vazquez.Kristinn@epamail.epa.gov
Website: www.epa.gov/performancetrack

New Alliance Task Force

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

The New Alliance Task Force helps unbanked individuals access mainstream banking services (including low-cost remittance products) avoid high-cost and/or predatory financial service providers.

Contact: David Barr
Phone: (202) 898-6992
Email: dbarr@FDIC.GOV
Website: www.fdic.gov

Video Claims Taking

Social Security Administration

The Video Claims Taking program links the Social Security Administration on a broadband channel to rural communities that allow face-to-face contact between applicants for benefits and claims representatives.

Contact: Roberta Mattingly
Phone: (301) 844-5690
Email: bobbie.mattingly@ssa.gov

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

Intertribal Economic Development

Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nation

The Intertribal Economic Development program has established a multi-tribal organization to create jobs on impoverished reservations to create multi-tribal businesses, raise capital, promote employee development and attract private sector mentors.

Contact: Richard Mayer

Phone: (701) 627-4781

Email: Rmayer@MHANation.com

Website: www.nativejobs.org

ARKANSAS

Antenatal & Neonatal Guidelines, Education & Learning System (ANGELS)

State of Arkansas

ANGELS, with collaborators University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Arkansas Medicaid, Arkansas Medical Society, and Arkansas' physicians, uses telemedicine, a 24-hour Call Center and evidence-based guidelines to improve obstetrical healthcare.

Contact: Dr. Curtis Lowery

Phone: (501) 686-5847

Email: lowerycurtis@uams.edu

Website: www.uams.edu/angels

Water Conservation Board

Union County, AR

Union County's Water Conservation Board created a project to address the rapidly depleting Sparta aquifer, the county's only source of industrial and drinking water. The effort raised \$65 million by taxing residents to conserve the aquifer and provides an abundant supply of water for current and future needs.

Contact: Cindy Woolsey

Phone: (870) 862-1244

Email: cwoolsey@arkansas.net

Website: www.ucweb.org

CALIFORNIA

Five-Year Affordable Housing Production

City of San Jose, CA

The City of San Jose created more than 6,000 new affordable housing units in five years, providing long-term affordability for low- and moderate-income families in one of the nation's most expensive cities.

Contact: Rebecca Flores

Phone: (408) 535-8242

Email: rebecca.flores@sanjoseca.gov

Website: www.sjhousing.org

CONNECTICUT

Supportive Housing Pilots Initiative

State of Connecticut

The Supportive Housing Initiative is a cooperative effort of five state agencies, the Corporation for Supportive Housing, philanthropy and the nonprofit communities to reduce chronic homelessness. This effort has collected \$35 million state investment that has leveraged nearly \$30 million from the private sector.

Contact: Anne Foley

Email: anne.foley@po.state.ct.us

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit

Metropolitan Police Department

By eliminating artificial boundaries (both geographical and political), the D.C. Police Department's Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit is the first in the nation to redefine "community policing" by coupling community outreach with traditional crime fighting.

Contact: Brett Parsons

Phone: (202) 727- 5427

Email: brett.parson@dc.gov

Website: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/units>

FLORIDA

Urban Academies Program

School Board of Broward County, FL

The Urban Academies of Broward County is a public-private partnership that impacts retention of teachers in predominantly poor, minority schools by "growing" its own teachers.

Contact: Sara Rogers

Phone: (754) 323-2115

Email: sara.rogers@browardschools.com

Website: www.whitesapphire.net/tlc/content/programs-index.htm

Educator Preparation Institutes

Florida Community College System

Educator Preparation Institutes prepare non-education bachelor's degree holders for certification as highly qualified teachers and is the model for Florida's response to a shortage of 30,000 teachers.

Contact: Dr. Henri Sue Bynum

Phone: (772)462-7505

Email: hbynum@ircc.edu

Website: www.ircc.edu/portal/layout_web1.aspx?AdminEdit=False&PortalPageID=573

HAWAII

Pollution Prevention Produces Power

State of Hawaii

Fourteen entities cooperate to divert to a power plant discarded fishnet which damaged reefs, killed mammals and burdened landfills. The diversion fuels 42 homes annually.

Contact: Howard Wiig

Phone: (808) 587-3811

Email: hwiig@dbedt.hawaii.gov

Website: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt/info/energy/waste

ILLINOIS

CLEARPath

City of Chicago, IL

CLEARPath is the Chicago Police Department's web site that empowers the community with maps, news releases, safety alerts, wanted offenders and more.

Contact: Monique Bond

Phone: 312-745-6110

Email: monique.bond@chicagopolice.org

Website: www.ChicagoPolice.org

Generations of Hope

State of Illinois

The Generations of Hope program is a planned intergenerational community for foster and adopted children, their parents and retirees or "grandparents." The program fulfills the retirees need for purpose and provides adoptive parents with needed support.

Contact: Brenda Eheart

Phone: (217) 893-4673

Email: contact@generationsofhope.org

Website: www.generationsofhope.org

INDIANA

Chronic Disease Management Program

State of Indiana

Chronic Disease Management Program offers Hoosiers with diabetes, asthma, chronic heart failure and hypertension critical information, support and education so they can take control of their conditions and lead healthier, more independent lives.

Contact: Katie Holeman-Shipp

Phone: (317) 234-3804

Email: Katie.Holeman-shipp@fssa.in.gov

Website: www.indianacdmpprogram.com

Mayor's Charter Schools Initiative

City of Indianapolis

The Mayor of Indianapolis is the nation's only mayor who can grant charters and oversee schools. He is creating a sector of new public schools under a nationally recognized accountability system that is uniquely rigorous and transparent.

Contact: David Harris

Phone: (317) 327-4930

Email: daharris@indygov.org

Website: www.indygov.org/eGov/Mayor/Education/Charter/home.htm

MARYLAND

Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund

State of Maryland

The Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund Act established a \$30 annual wastewater system users' fee to finance projects to remove excess nutrients from wastewater treatment plants, septic systems and cropland.

Contact: Julie Oberg

Phone: (410) 537-3003

Email: joberg@mde.state.md.us

Website: www.mde.state.md.us

MASSACHUSETTS

MassHealth Senior Care Options Demonstration

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MassHealth Senior Care Options (SCO) is a unique Medicare-Medicaid partnership offering seniors a 24/7 coordinated health care benefit which combines medical, preventive and community support services.

Contact: William Clark

Phone: 410-786-1484

Email: William.Clark@cms.hhs.gov

Website: www.mass.gov/masshealth

Teaming

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Teaming is a groundbreaking child welfare practice which addresses the issue of front line social worker isolation. The program reduces isolation by creating teams with shared responsibility for families.

Contact: Mia Alvarado

Phone: (617) 748-2360

Email: mia.alvarado@state.ma.us

Website: www.dsskids.org

MAINE

Dirigo Health Reform

State of Maine

The Comprehensive Dirigo Health Reform initiative addresses the triple threat of rising costs, inconsistent quality and increasingly unaffordable health coverage to assure all Mainers are healthy and have coverage.

Contact: Patricia Riley

Phone: (207) 624-7442

Email: Trish.Riley@maine.gov

Website: www.dirigohealth.maine.gov

MICHIGAN

Land Bank

Genesee County, MI

The Land Bank acquires land through foreclosure and determines the best use of the land with the community's needs in mind, rather than simply selling to the highest bidder. It has cleaned thousands of properties and created a mechanism to utilize land to support redevelopment opportunities for affordable housing and Smart Growth.

Contact: The Honorable Daniel Kildee

Phone: (810) 257-3024

Email: dkildee@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.thelandbank.org

MISSOURI

Promising Practices Network

State of Missouri

The Promising Practices Network is a website designed for states that provides quality, evidence-based information about what works to improve the lives of children, youth and families.

Contact: William Dent

Phone: (573) 526-3581

Email: bill.dent@dss.mo.gov

Website: www.promisingpractices.net

NEW YORK

HomeBase

City of New York, NY

HomeBase is a community-based program helping shift the homeless services model in New York City away from a focus on shelter to a focus on actually preventing homelessness.

Contact: Holly Humphrey

Phone: (212) 361-7971

Email: hhumphre@dhs.nyc.gov

Website: www.nyc.gov/html/dhs/html/atrisk/hombase.shmtl

Sustainable Water Program

Orange County, NY

The Sustainable Water Program engages municipalities and community agencies in a proactive, holistic effort to manage and protect the county's water. The program coordinates efforts county-wide for new supply sources, wastewater treatment, conservation, aquifer recharge, source protection and stream water quality.

Contact: David Church

Phone: (845) 291- 2318

Email: dchurch@co.orange.ny.us

NORTH CAROLINA

Health Alliance

Cabarrus County, NC

The Cabarrus County Health Department significantly increased its capacity to provide public health services by separating from county government to become a public health authority. As a result, the county has seen significant improvements in health.

Contact: Dr. William Pilkington

Phone: (704) 920-1203

Email: ppilkington@cabarrushealth.org

Website: www.cabarrushealth.org

OREGON

OregonHelps.org

Multnomah County, OR

Orgeonhelps.org is a Multnomah County website that saves citizens' time by allowing them to confidentially check their eligibility for 27 Oregon social service programs in one visit.

Contact: Mike Beard

Phone: (503) 988-5273

Email: mike.beard@co.multnomah.or.us

PENNSYLVANIA

Adoption and Legal Services Project

Allegheny County, PA

Adoption and Legal Services Project is a public-private partnership of the court, a county agency and a private law firm to eliminate a backlog in foster care adoptions.

Contact: Karen Blumen

Phone: (412) 350-5707

Email: kblumen@dhs.county.allegheny.pa.us

Website: www.county.allegheny.pa.us/dhs/CYFnew/alsp.htm

Community Action Team

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

The Community Action Team (CAT) expedites funding for high-impact redevelopment projects by breaking down bureaucratic roadblocks and packaging resources of multiple agencies. CAT represents a radical shift in the state's approach from a passive application review process to a model based on meaningful state "engagement" in all phases of project development.

Contact: Larry Segal

Phone: (717) 780-4020

Email: lsegal@phfa.org

Website: www.newpa.com

Fresh Food Financing Initiative

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

The Fresh Food Financing Initiative is a public-private financing program that provides innovative financing solutions to supermarket operators in underserved communities to improve access to healthy and affordable food.

Contact: David Adler

Phone: (215) 568-0830 x120

Email: dadler@thefoodtrust.org

Website: www.thefoodtrust.org

Homeowners Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

The Homeowners' Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program is a loan program to prevent widespread mortgage foreclosure and distress sales of homes which result from default caused by circumstances beyond a homeowner's control.

Contact: Robert Bobincheck

Phone: (717) 780-1801

Email: bbobincheck@phfa.org

Website: [http:// www.phfa.org/consumers/homeowners/hemap.aspx](http://www.phfa.org/consumers/homeowners/hemap.aspx)

Municipal Automated Vehicle Sharing Program

City of Philadelphia, PA

Philadelphia is the first government in North America to share cars with local residents as part of a major fleet reduction program. This project eliminated 330 vehicles, saving \$1.7 million annually, without sacrificing employees' ability to accomplish city business.

Contact: Jeffrey Friedman

Phone: (215) 760-1197

Email: friedman19129@mac.com

Website: www.phillycarshare.org

SOUTH CAROLINA

Business One Stop

State of South Carolina

Business One Stop is a comprehensive “one-stop” gateway for business registration, licensing and permits incorporating federal, state and local government services within South Carolina. It has issued more than 12,000 licenses, permits and registrations saving businesses approximately \$1.3 million.

Contact: Michael Garon

Phone: (803) 898-5586

Email: garonm@sctax.org

Website: www.scbos.com

TEXAS

WorkInTexas.com

State of Texas

WorkInTexas.com is an online job-search tool developed by the Texas Workforce Commission to match employers of all sizes and industries with qualified job candidates. Employers can efficiently access candidates across the state, which reduces recruitment and screening costs.

Contact: Larry Jones

Phone: (512) 463-8556

Email: larry.jones@twc.state.tx.us

Website: www.WorkInTexas.com

VERMONT

Vermont Housing and Conservation Board

State of Vermont

The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board provides loans and grants for the development of perpetually affordable housing and to conserve agricultural and recreational land, natural areas and historic properties.

Contact: Gus Seelig

Phone: (802) 828-3251

Email: gseelig@vhcb.org

Website: www.vhcb.org

WASHINGTON

Coming Home Program

State of Washington

The Coming Home program, operated by the state’s long-term care agency, is a public-private partnership to develop affordable assisted living facilities in difficult-to-develop rural areas, providing housing and services to low-income seniors and adults with disabilities.

Contact: George Zimmerman

Phone: (360) 725-2534

Email: zimmegm@dshs.wa.gov

Website: www.ncbdc.org

eCityGov Alliance 2006

City of Mercer Island, WA

eCityGov Alliance web portals erase barriers across silos of government service and deliver best business practices between departments and across jurisdictional boundaries. Citizens, businesses and jurisdictions all work together to save time and money.

Contact: John Backman

Phone: (425) 452-7821

Email: jbackman@ci.bellevue.wa.us

Website: www.eCityGov.net

Outcomes Initiative

State of Washington

The Outcomes Initiative is a collaborative effort across nine public and private funded human service organizations that goes beyond the traditional accountability model to measure the impact, or outcomes of services, in order to gauge program effectiveness.

Contact: Julie Grevstad

Phone: (253) 798-4845

Email: jgrevst@co.pierce.wa.us

WISCONSIN

Green Tier

State of Wisconsin

Wisconsin's voluntary Green Tier program creates co-benefits for regulated and unregulated entities (businesses, communities, trade associations, etc.) aspiring to differentiate themselves by systematically delivering superior environmental performance.

Contact: Mark McDermid

Phone: (608) 267-3125

Email: mark.mcdermid@dnr.state.wi.us

Website: www.greentier.wi.gov

Juvenile Detention Reading Program

Brown County, WI

The Reading Connections Program at the Brown County Juvenile Detention Center rapidly advances reading levels among confined youth, increasing opportunity to break the cycle of incarceration. The program improves self-esteem and behaviors in the facility and the community.

Contact: Captain John Jadin

Phone: (920) 391-6806

Email: jadin_jm@co.brown.wi.us

Website:

Teacher Cooperative Schools

Milwaukee Public Schools, WI

Entrepreneurial educators in Milwaukee Public Schools have formed "teacher cooperatives," where they own their own professional practice. They get unprecedented authority over operations in exchange for accepting responsibility for results.

Contact: Danny Goldberg

Phone: (414) 218-4873

Email: dgoldberg1@wi.rr.com

Website: www.milwaukee.k12.wi.us